VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF NORFOLK AMANDA R. MAYES,

Plaintiff,

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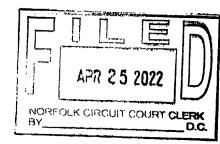
Case No.: 22 - 5806

CITY OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA,

Serve:

Bernard Pishko, Esq. Norfolk City Attorney's Office 810 Union Street, Suite 900

Norfolk, VA 23510



Defendant.

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the plaintiff, Amanda R. Mayes ("Mayes"), and for her Complaint in this action, states as follows:

Facts

- At all times relevant to this action, Mayes was employed as a Benefit Programs
 Supervisor in the Department of Human Services for the City of Norfolk, Virginia
 ("Norfolk") from June 7, 2021 to December 7, 2021.
- Mayes' job responsibilities while working for Norfolk included supervising,
 planning, organizing and directing benefit program determination and overseeing
 the work of professional and clerical staff within the Norfolk Department of
 Human Services.

- 3. Mayes' job responsibilities also included the monitoring of job performance, evaluating the caseloads of the employees she supervised and ensuring the integrity and legal compliance of the programs that she supervised.
- 4. Mayes' job responsibilities also included evaluating and/or recommending changes to the programs and making decisions on controversial or sensitive issues as well as planning and managing programs.
- At all times relevant to this action, Norfolk was an employer transacting business in the City of Norfolk, Virginia and employed more than 500 people.
- 6. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes supervised several employees of Norfolk that worked in the administration of public benefit programs.
- 7. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes reported to her direct supervisor and manager, Ms. Camelia Kee ("Kee"). At all times relevant to this action, Kee acted as an employee and agent of Norfolk. During her employment with Norfolk, Kee and Norfolk advised Mayes that the employees that she supervised were not allowed to work an amount of hours or time that would, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. §1801, et seq.) and/or the Virginia Minimum Wage Act (§40.1-29.2, Code of Virginia) require Norfolk to pay them for "overtime" or wages in excess or their normal rate of pay without the prior approval of management. Nevertheless, Norfolk and Kee frequently demanded and required that such employees work an amount of hours or time that, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. §1801, et seq.) and/or the Virginia Minimum Wage Act (§40.1-29.2, Code of Virginia) required Norfolk to

- pay them for "overtime" or wages in excess or their normal rate of pay yet refused to pay the increased wages.
- 8. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes reported to Kee, her direct supervisor and manager, and to Norfolk that many of the employees she supervised as well as Norfolk employee that Mayes di not supervise, were working in excess of 40 hours per week and working "off the clock" in order to effectively manage the cases assigned to them by Norfolk.
- 9. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes reported to her direct supervisor and manager, Kee and to Norfolk that many of the non-exempt employees that she supervised were requesting and were entitled to receive overtime pay for working in excess of 40 hours per week and working "off the clock" in order to manage the cases assigned to them by Norfolk.
- 10. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes complained to her direct supervisor and manager, Kee and to Norfolk that Norfolk was allowing non-exempt employees of Norfolk to work "off the clock" and without pay so that those employees could complete their assigned casework. Mayes persistently addressed this issue with leadership over several months.
- 11. On September 19, 2021, Mayes received an email from an employee of Norfolk requesting overtime pay for time necessarily worked in order to complete her caseload assigned from Norfolk. (See attached Exhibit A).
- 12. On September 20, 2021, Mayes sent an email to Kee advising of Blount's request for overtime pay and the steps taken by Mayes to request such payment. (See attached Exhibit B).

- 13. On September 22, 2021, Mayes received another request from a worker that she supervised regarding a request for overtime compensation from Norfolk. (See attached Exhibit C). Mayes conveyed the request to Kee and Norfolk and Mayes reiterated that employees of Norfolk were working "off the clock" in order to complete their case assignments and were entitled to overtime compensation unless changes were made to address the workload. On several occasion after the September 22, 2021 email (and prior to her termination), Mayes also made several recommendations to Kee and Norfolk as to ways to address the caseload issue so that the employees of Norfolk could complete their caseload without incurring overtime wages in the future.
- 14. On September 29, 2021, Mayes wrote to Kee advising her that an employee of Norfolk made a second request for overtime pay due to excessive hours worked. On September 30, 2021, Kee wrote to Mayes that Norfolk would not approve overtime "at the moment." (See attached Exhibit D).
- 15. On October 19, 2021, Mayes forwarded to Kee another email from an employee of Norfolk regarding a request for overtime payment due to her heavy case load. (See attached Exhibit E).
- 16. On October 20, 2021, Kee responded to Mayes' October 19, 2021 email by simply stating that workers were not to be working off the clock. (See attached Exhibit F). This follow an in person meeting between Mayes and Kee during which Mayes advised Kee that, despite Kee and Norfolk announcing that no Norfolk employees could work overtime without approval, those employee nevertheless continued to work uncompensated overtime hours in order to meet

- the demands of Norfolk and Kee. Mayes specifically advised Kee and Norfolk that Mayes was concerned about an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor due to the overtime issues. Kee and Norfolk advise Mayes that the employees were experienced and would "figure it out."
- 17. On October 20, 2021, Mayes sent an email to the team of Norfolk employees that she supervised informing them of Kee's decision and advising the employees that they were not able to work unpaid time and that their overtime requests had not yet been approved. (See attached Exhibit G).
- 18. On November 23, 2021, Mayes met with Kee and Norfolk to discuss performance. Again, Mayes brought up the caseload of the employees that Mayes supervised as well as their requests for and entitlement to overtime compensation. During the November 23, 2021 meeting, Mayes expressed her concerns to Kee that the employees of Norfolk that Mayes was supervising were working off the clock to manage their caseload.
- 19. During her employment with Norfolk, Mayes never received a negative or adverse employment evaluation. In fact, Kee and Norfolk advised Mayes several times that she was doing well. Norfolk and Kee added Mayes to certain focus groups and given special assignments prior to her abrupt termination on December 7, 2021.
- 20. During the meeting on November 23, 2021, Kee advised Mayes that Mayes was performing her job well.
- 21. On December 7, 2021, only seven (7) business days after the November 23,2021 meeting with Kee, Norfolk summarily terminated its employment of Mayes.

Norfolk falsely and wrongfully wrote a termination letter dated December 6, 2021 stating that Mayes was "incompetent" in the performance of her job duties and was in "serious neglect of duty" and had violated several city policies. These allegations were false and Norfolk and Kee knew they were false at the time the letter was written.

- 22. The false allegations in the December 6, 2021 termination letter were published to third parties.
- 23. Since Mayes was terminated on December 7, 2021, Norfolk has continued to encourage the employees of Norfolk that were previously supervised by Mayes to continue to work "off the clock" and without overtime compensation in order to complete their caseloads.

Count I (Retaliation—Fair Labor Standards Act)

- 24. Mayes hereby restates paragraphs 1- 23 of the Complaint as if fully restated herein.
- 25. At all times relevant to this action, Mayes engaged in activity protected by the Fair Labor Standard Act, 29 U.S.C. §215(a).
- 26. Kee and Norfolk terminated its employment of Mayes in direct retaliation for Mayes engaging in activity protected by the Fair Labor Standard Act.
- 27. Kee and Norfolk terminated its employment of Mayes in direct retaliation for Mayes' good faith reporting of violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 215(a)(3) and for Mayes' efforts to organize a labor action on behalf of Norfolk employees.

28. As a direct and proximate result of Norfolk and Kee's unlawful retaliation against
Mayes in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Mayes has suffered and
incurred damages and incurred attorney's fees and costs.

Count II (Retaliation—Virginia Code §40.1-27.3)

- 29. Mayes hereby restates paragraphs 1- 28 of the Complaint as if fully restated herein.
- 30. At all times relevant to this action, Mayes made good faith reports to Kee and Norfolk of suspected violations of both the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. §1801, et seq.) and the Virginia Minimum Wage Act (§40.1-29.2, Code of Virginia) as well as other possible violations of federal and or state law.
- 31. Kee and Norfolk terminated its employment of Mayes and otherwise discriminated against Mayes in direct retaliation for Mayes reporting the suspected violations and federal and/or state law to Kee and Norfolk.
- 32. Kee and Norfolk terminated its employment of Mayes and discriminated against Mayes in direct violation of §40.1-27.3 and §40.1-29.2, <u>Code of Virginia</u>.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of Norfolk and Kee's unlawful violation of (§40.1-27.3 and §40.1-29.2, <u>Code of Virginia</u>), Mayes has suffered and incurred damages and incurred attorney's fees and costs.

Count III (Retaliation—Virginia Code §2.2-3010)

34. Mayes hereby restates paragraphs 1- 33 of the Complaint as if fully restated herein.

- 35. At all times relevant to this action, Mayes was an "Employee" and Norfolk was an "Employer" as those terms are defined in the Virginia §2.2-3030 of the Code of Virginia (The Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act).
- 36. At all times relevant to this action, Kee and Norfolk engaged in "Misconduct" and "Wrongdoing" as those terms are defined in §2.2-3010, Code of Virginia.
- 37. Norfolk and Kee terminated Mayes' employment in direct retaliation for Mayes' reporting of the misconduct and wrongdoing in violation of §2.2-3011 Code of Virginia.
- 38. Norfolk and Kee's actions in terminating Mayes' employment were in direct violation of §2.2-3011 Code of Virginia.
- 39. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' violations of §2.2-3011 Code of Virginia, Mayes has suffered damages including lost wages and benefits and has lost her employment position with Norfolk.

Count IV (Defamation)

- 40. Mayes hereby restates paragraphs 1- 23 of the Complaint as if fully restated herein.
- 41. On December 6, 2021, Norfolk intentionally and maliciously published the false statements that Mayes was "incompetent" to perform her job duties, that Mayes had violated policies and procedures that applied to Norfolk employees, and that Mayes had "seriously neglected" her duty as an employee of Norfolk. At the time that Norfolk made the statements, Norfolk knew or should have known that the statements were false.

- 42. The statements made by Norfolk were about Mayes and imputed to Mayes and unfitness to work in her chosen profession and were damaging to Mayes' reputation.
- 43. As a direct and proximate result of the defamatory statements made by Norfolk, Mayes has suffered damaged.

Jury Demand

44. Mayes demands a trial by jury on all issues pursuant to Rule 3:21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Claim For Attorney's Fees

- 45. Mayes requests an award of her attorney's fees and costs incurred in this matter pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b), §40.1-27.3(C), Code of Virginia and §2.2-3011(D) Code of Virginia.
- 46. Pursuant to Rule 3:25 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Mayes moves the Court to establish a procedure to adjudicate her claim for attorney's fees in advance of trial or during trial.

Relief Sought

WHEREFORE, Mayes moves this Honorable Court to enter judgment in her favor against the defendants, jointly and severally and to award Mayes the following relief:

A. A judgment of compensatory damages to include an award of back pay of all lost salary and fringe benefits, with interest, from December 7, 2021 until the date of judgment as well as an equal amount as liquidated damages;

- B. A judgment of \$395,000.00 in compensatory damages.
- C. An award of \$100,000.00 in punitive damages;
- D. An award of reinstatement to her position of employment that she held immediately prior to her suspension and termination or to an equivalent position;
- E. An award of her attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.

AMANDA R. MAYES

W. Barry Montgomery, Esq. (VSB# 43042)

KPM Law 901 Moorefield Park Dr., Suite 200

Richmond, VA 23236 Tel: (804) 320-6300 Fax: (804) 320-6312

Barry.montogmery@kpmlaw.com Counsel for Amanda Mayes

W. Barry Montgomery

Please Reply: Central Virginia Office Direct Dial: (804) 521-6453

E-mail: barry.montgomery@kpmlaw.com

Website: www.kpmlaw.com



April 25, 2022

Hon. George E. Schaefer, Clerk Norfolk Circuit Court 150 St. Paul's Boulevard, 7th Floor Norfolk, VA 23510-2773

RE: Amanda R. Mayes v. City of Norfolk Court File No.: New Filing

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

I have enclosed an original plus one (1) service copy of a Complaint to be filed and served in this case. I have also enclosed a Civil Cover Sheet and a check for \$316.00 to cover the filing and service fees.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

W. Barry Montgomery

Enclosures WBM/klj

cc: Amanda R. Mayes

(with enc.)

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

901 Moorefield Park Drive Suite 200 Richmond, Virginia 23236 p 804,320,6300 f 804,320,6312

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

3950 University Drive Suite 204 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 o 703.691.3331 1703.691.3332

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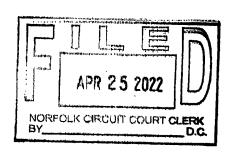
EASTERN VIRGINIA

555 East Main Street Suite 1200 Noi folk, Virginia 23510 o 757 623.4500 f 757.623 5700

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WESTERN VIRGINIA

2840 Electric Road Sein 111 Poanake, Virginia 24018 p 340.776.3583 f 540.776.1542



COLUMN CAMPER FOR THE INC. ON	THE ACCOUNTS	Case No. 22 - 5806
COVER SHEET FOR FILING CITY COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA	VIL ACTIONS	(CLERK'S OFFICE USE ONLY)
	City of Norfolk	Circuit Court
Amanda R Mayes		City of Norfolk, Virginia
PLAINTIFF(S)	V./In re;	DEFENDANT(S)
I, the undersigned [] plaintiff [] defendant the following civil action. (Please indicate by	[X] attorney for [X] plaintiff [] deform the checking box that most closely ide	endant hereby notify the Clerk of Court that I am filing entifies the claim being asserted or relief sought.)
GENERAL CIVIL	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	PROBATE/WILLS AND TRUSTS cision of [] Accounting
Subsequent Actions	[] Appeal/Judicial Review of Dec (select one)	[] Aid and Guidance
[] Claim Impleading Third Party Defendant [] Monetary Damages	[] ABC Board	Appointment (select one)
[] No Monetary Damages	Board of Zoning	[] Guardian/Conservator
[] Counterclaim	[] Compensation Board	[] Standby Guardian/Conservator
[] Monetary Damages	DMV License Suspension	[] Custodian/Successor Custodian (UTMA)
No Monetary Damages	[] Employee Grievance Decis	sion [] Trust (select one)
Cross Claim	[] Employment Commission	[] Impress/Declare/Create
[] Interpleader	[] Local Government	[] Reformation
[] Reinstatement (other than divorce or	[] Marine Resources Commis	ssion [] Will (select one)
driving privileges)	[] School Board	[] Construe
[] Removal of Case to Federal Court	[] Voter Registration	[] Contested
Business & Contract	[] Other Administrative Appe	eai MISCELLANEOUS
[] Attachment	DOMESTIC OF A MILL W	[] Amend Death Certificate
[] Confessed Judgment	DOMESTIC/FAMILY	[] Appointment (select one)
[] Contract Action	[] Adoption [] Adoption – Foreign	[] Church Trustee
[] Contract Specific Performance	[] Adult Protection	Conservator of Peace
[] Garnishment	[] Annulment	[] Marriage Celebrant
Property	[] Annulment – Counterclain	
[] Annexation	Pleading	Settlement
[] Condemnation	[] Child Abuse and Neglect – Ur	afounded [] Bond Forfeiture Appeal
[] Ejectment	Complaint	Declaratory Judgment
[] Encumber/Sell Real Estate	[] Civil Contempt	[] Declare Death
[] Enforce Vendor's Lien	[] Divorce (select one)	Driving Privileges (select one)
[] Escheatment	[] Complaint - Contested*	[] Reinstatement pursuant to § 46.2-427 [] Restoration – Habitual Offender or 3 rd
[] Establish Boundaries	[] Complaint - Uncontested*	
[] Landlord/Tenant	[] Counterclaim/Responsive	Pleading Offense
[] Unlawful Detainer	[] Reinstatement – Custody/Visitation/Suppor	
[] Mechanics Lien	Distribution	[] Forfeiture of Property or Money
[] Partition [] Quiet Title	[] Separate Maintenance	[] Freedom of Information
[] Termination of Mineral Rights	[] Separate Maintenance Cou	
Tort	[] Deparate Maintenance Coe	[] Interdiction
[] Asbestos Litigation	WRITS T	[Interrogatory
[] Compromise Settlement	[] Certiorar	Judgment Lien-Bill to Enforce
[] Intentional Tort	Habers Cornus	Law Enforcement/Public Official Petition
[] Medical Malpractice	Mandamus	Name Change
[] Motor Vehicle Tort	Prohibition APR 25	2022
[] Product Liability	[] Quo Watranto	11 / ii] · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
[] Wrongful Death	Annual market ma	Taxes (select one)
Other General Tort Liability	NORFOLK CIRCUIT	
	BY	D.C. Definiquent
		Voting Rights – Restoration
		Other (please specify)
Damages in the amount of \$ 395,000.00	are claimed.	(1 chara diameter)
[X] Damages in the amount of 3	are ordinated.	
A 1 22 2 222		
1118111 22) 2022	[] PLAINTIFF [] DEFI	ENDANT MATTORNEY FOR MPLAINTIFF
y DAIB	()	[] DEFENDANT
W. Barry Montgom	O1 y	
FRINT NAME KPM Law, 901 Moorefield Park Dr., Suite	200. Richmond, VA 23236 ***	Contested" divorce means any of the following matters are in
ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER OF	PROPERTOR di	spute: grounds of divorce, spousal support and maintenance,
Tel: (804) 320-6300; barry.montgo	marralenmlass com	ild custody and/or visitation, child support, property distribution
161; (004) 320-0300; Darry monige	or	debt allocation. An "Uncontested" divorce is filed on no fault
	gr	ounds and none of the above issues are in dispute.
EMAIL ADDRESS OF SIGNATOR (C		

